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ley, who adopted the view that the bodies he saw could not have been anything else than spermatozoa. My friend, Prof. John Pierce, an experienced microscopist, several times with me examined the free moving spermatozoa (we saw hundreds in active motion), and agrees with me that the bodies we repeatedly observed from different males could not have been organic particles vibrating through the Brownian motion. We both, without distinctly observing the tails, witnessed effects that must have resulted from a rapidly vibrating appendage or "tail."

NOTE.—Since the above was written I have received (Dec. 12) from Mr. Vinal N. Edwards, of the U. S. Fish Commission, a number of eels from Wood's Holl, Mass., forwarded at the suggestion of Prof. Baird. There were two races or varieties among them, some dark with yellow on the belly, others light and silvery beneath, with the anal fin bright red, as well as the edges of the pectoral fins. I supposed that the yellow bellied ones were females and the silver bellied ones were males, but found males and females of both races; so that while the above remarks concerning the colors of the sexes may apply to what eels I examined from Providence River, in the Wood's Holl specimens, there was absolutely no colorational difference between the sexes, and the difference in color is probably due to the color of the water, and especially the nature of the sea bottom, whether sandy or muddy. The females from Wood's Holl were about ready to spawn, and the males contained more abundant spermatozoa than any others examined, but no milt.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

SARS' MOLLUSCAN FAUNA OF ARCTIC NORWAY.[1]—The connection between the northern faunæ of East America and Europe is so close that monographic work of any kind done for one region, deserves and usually obtains the careful attention of students whose field of research is in the other; and it is daily becoming more necessary as wider observation reveals with greater clearness the intimate relations which the two districts bear to one another. This is especially true of the marine animals, and therefore the appearance of Prof. Sars' important work on the Mollusca of Arctic Norway is an event of no little interest for the American student of northern invertebrates. The well known ability of the author as an observer, an investigator and an artistic delineator of the objects he describes, warrant us in expecting results, in the main, of the highest excellence. Yet candor compels us to admit that these expectations are only partly fulfilled.

The work contains a short introduction followed by a description of each species in zoölogical order, without synonymy or descriptions of the genera, and with occasional but incomplete references to specific synonyms, followed by such remarks on each species as the wide experience gained by the author from eighteen years of study has suggested. The length of time over which the work has extended, has rendered a short supplement necessary to the main body of the book, which is followed by tables of geographical distribution and a discussion of the questions involved in this branch of the work, a full index, and the plates with their explanation. The text is in Norwegian and the descriptions of families and species in Latin.

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[1] *Bidrag til kundskaben om Norges arktiske Fauna, I, Mollusca Regionis Arcticæ Norvegiæ.* Af Dr. G. O. SARS, Prof. Zoöl. v. Christiania Univ. Universitets program for förste halvaar 1878. Christiania, 1878. 8vo, pp. 466. Map and fifty-two autographic plates.

The plates are autotypic and contain an amount of work which must be seen to be appreciated. It is true that a certain amount of progress may be traced in them, a few of the earlier ones being slightly less artistic than the rest, and an occasional correction will suggest itself to the special student, but aside from these inconsiderable matters, it may well be doubted if the animals of any other fauna have ever been so thoroughly and effectively treated by the pencil of a competent draughtsman. They are simply invaluable to the student of Arctic and boreal Mollusca, not only for their delineation of species (often unfigured elsewhere), but for the thoroughness with which accessories, too often neglected, such as dentition, opercula, anatomical details, etc., are represented whenever known. These plates alone would form for the author an enduring claim to the gratitude of his fellow naturalists of all countries.

A serious drawback, however, to the fullest usefulness of the work exists in its nomenclature, which does not appear to conform to any particular principles, and which most unfortunately adds very largely to the already overwhelming mass of synonymy with which this branch of science is loaded. Prof. Sars exhibits a tendency to divide species and genera to their fullest extent, and while this alone is not particularly reprehensible if carefully done, yet when done without great care, as in the present case, one may be pardoned for taking exception to the method, and lamenting the inevitable results. Thus we have as absolute synonyms of already established names, *Boreochiton* Sars (*Trachydermon* Crp.), *Boreofusus* Sars (*Troschelia* Mörch), and *Solenopus* M. Sars (*Neomenia* Tullb.) first described by Tullberg. *Craspedochilus* Sars, also belongs in a section first characterized and named by Carpenter. In this connection it may be mentioned that a reëxamination of the dentition of the Chitons would probably result in a revision of some of the figures. Of names which have been adopted without that search into their credentials which would have shown them to be untenable, a few may be mentioned. Such are *Portlandia* Mörch, *Tridonta* Schumacher, *Nicania* Leach, *Timoclea* Römer, *Rupicola* (?), *Antalis* Aldrovandus (!), *Delphinoidea* Brown, *Pilidium* Midd., *Pyrene* Bolten, and *Conulus* Nardo. Of names applied erroneously to forms which cannot by any recognized rules come under them, there are quite a number, such as *Chiton* (restricted) for *Chiton hanleyi*; *Lepidopleurus* to *Chiton alveolus* M. Sars, *Nacella* to *Patina pellucida*, *Acmæa* (restricted) to *Collisella testudinalis*, while *Tectura* is retained for *Acmæa virginea*, *Scutellina* to *Pilidium fulvum*, *Ampullina* to *Bulbus Smithii*, *Chrysodomus* (as of Swainson) to *Fusus Turtoni*, while a typical *Chrysodomus* is called *Neptunea*, and so on. We are far from asserting that these blemishes are sufficient to condemn wholly a work which will always be of permanent value, yet it is impossible not to regret, that while the greater part of it is so very good the remainder was not brought a little nearer perfection. We presume the work, though not provided with a nominal publisher may be had of the author, or of the authorities of the University of Christiania. It was actually issued on the 6th of June, 1878, though proofs of part of the plates had been kindly furnished to several naturalists some time before their publication. —*W. H. Dall.*

SMITHSONIAN REPORT FOR 1877.[1]—This report, the last made by the lamented Henry, contains matter of very general interest, not only as to the workings of the Smithsonian Institution but also the progress in the scientific explorations of the United States. Of particular value is the full " List of the more important Explorations and Expeditions, the collections of which have constituted the principal sources of supply to the National Museum, with indication of the department of the Government under which prosecuted." Besides the numerous articles in the appendix, translated and original, concerning archæology, physics and meteorology, zoölogists will be interested in the translation of Weismann's interesting paper " On the Change of the Mexican Axolotl to an Amblystoma."

PALÆONTOLOGICAL REPORT OF THE PRINCETON SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION OF 1877.[2]—This stout pamphlet represents the work of an expedition of students of Princeton College, who, under the auspices of Prof. Guyot, director of the museum of that institution, made an exploration of the fossiliferous beds of the Bridger Basin of Wyoming, and the fish-bearing shales of the South Park of Colorado. It is cause of congratulation on the part of the friends of scientific education, that the liberal endowment of this department at Princeton College should have commenced thus early to bear fruit, and in so profitable a direction. The seed sown by the late Mr. Green has evidently fallen into good ground, and we see at once the realization of President McCosh's view, that the great schools should not only be institutions for teaching,

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[1] *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution . . . for 1877.* Washington, 1878. 8vo, pp. 500.

[2] *Contributions from the Museum of Geology and Archæology of Princeton College.* No 1, Palæontological Report, etc. By HENRY F. OSBORNE, WM. B. SCOTT and FRANCIS SPIER, Jr. Sept. 1, 1878. 8vo, pp. 146, pl. x.